27th November 1928]

Books and Publications

Alleged seizure by the Police of Bharathi's works in the Hindi Prachar Sabha office, Triplicane.

*724-A Q.—Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the office of Hindi Prachar Sabha, Triplicane, and a book shop in the city were searched recently and that several copies of the works of the late Subrahmanya Bharathi were seized;

(b) what was the immediate cause which led to this action;

(c) whether Government are aware that the songs, etc., included in the volumes recently seized were printed some 20 years ago and were in wide circulation all these years;

(d) whether Government can point out any new or additional literary matter in these volumes which the Government think fit to be suppressed;

(e) whether Government are aware that the widow and other survivors of the late Subrahmanya Bharathi are very poor and that such seizure of a large number of volumes would hit them badly; and

(f) whether Government will consider the question of restoring the seized volumes to the owners on their undertaking to blot out the new matter, if any, objected to by Government?

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) An order of forfeiture issued by the Government of Burma under section 99-A, Criminal Procedure Code.

(c) No.

(e) The Government have no information.

(d) & (f) The application filed by the Superintendent of the Hindi Prachar Press, Triplicane, against the order of forfeiture issued by the Government of Burma is before the High Court. The Government can make no pronouncement till this has been disposed of.

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—" As regards the answer to clause (c), have the Government made any attempt to get the information ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" No, Sir."

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—" Why Sir ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" Because the Government are not in any way interested."

Objectionable poems in the Bharathi's poetical works.

*724-B Q.—Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state the objectionable poems in the first two volumes of Bharathi's poetical works which, in their opinion, justify the order of proscription?

A.—The application filed by the Superintendent of the Hindi Prachar Press, Triplicane, against the order of forfeiture issued by the Government of Burma is before the High Court. The Government can make no pronouncement till this has been disposed of.